GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5433
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
EXPENDITURE REFORMS COMMISSION
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up in his Ministry to give its recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of the Ministry and Department thereunder;

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this commission as on 31.12.2001;

(d) the details of recommendations yet to be implemented by his Ministry or Department thereunder alongwith the reasons for not implementing them so far; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI. I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (e): No Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Therefore, questions in regard to its composition, recommendations, implementation of recommendations, etc., do not arise. However, an Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishanan, former Finance Secretary, had been set up by the Ministry of Finance in February, 2000 to, inter alia, suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government; review the framework of subsidies and examine economic rationale for their continuance; review the framework of determination of user charges by Departmental and commercial entities; review the adequacy of staffing under the Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions; consider any other relevant issue concerning expenditure management in the Government, etc.

MHA was not specifically covered by the recommendations of ERC. However, the ERC, in its report titled `Task Ahead` has suggested that the remaining Ministries/Organisations should carry out in-house examination of their manpower needs in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and in accordance with the general approach suggested by ERC for optimising the work force. MHA has been implementing the guidelines issued by the Government for optimising the work force from time to time.

ERC, in its 10th Report on general issues, had questioned the practice of providing free rations, etc., to officers and providing support staff at the residence of officers of the Armed Services and Police. The views of MHA on the observations of ERC were conveyed to the Ministry of Finance.